

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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CU-05 JUSE-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CG-00 /167 W

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R 041000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1157

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

USUN NEW YORK 0104

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3608

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, ID

SUBJECT: SUHARTO VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REFS: (A) SINGAPORE 3583 (B) JAKARTA 10851

SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONFIRM IMPRESSION REPORTED REF A THAT SUHARTO VISIT CONSIDERED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BY BOTH SIDES. WHILE NO AGREEMENTS REACHED ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, EXCPET FOR GOS AGREEMENT TO RELEASE CONFIDENTIALLY SINGAPORE-INDONESIAN TRADE STATISTICS, OVERALL POLITICAL IMPACT OF VISIT WAS POSITIVE. DESPITE SOME GRUMBLING ON BOTH SIDES OVER  
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INTRANSIGEANT POSITIONS TAKEN ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS,

GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IS NOW VIEWED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AS CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE ALTHOUGH A VARIETY OF RATHER SENSITIVE PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT FROM U.S. STAND-POINT WAS AGREEMENT SUPPORT PROCEDURAL VOTE ON KHMER CREDENTIAL ISSUE IN UNGA WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF DEFERRING ISSUE UNTIL NEXT YEAR. (USUN SEE PARA 6 BELOW.)

1. INDONESIA AMBASSADOR RUKMITO HENDRANINGRATJR IN PLANNING FOR VISIT, SAID HE HAD HOPED TWO SIDES COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON FOUR SUBJECTS: ECONOMIC COOPERATION; JOINT PATROL OF WATERS BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA TO CONTROL SMUGGLING; CULTURAL EXCHANGES; AND EXTRADITION. ONLY THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED (IN ADDITION TO EXCHANGE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF SEA BOUNDARY AGREEMENT, PREVIOUSLY AGREED). ECONOMIC AGREEMENT IS VERY GENERAL IN NATURE AND HENCE BELIEVED TO BE MORE WINDOW-DRESSING THAN OF REAL SUBSTANCE. NO SPECIFIC JOINT ECONOMIC PROJECTS WERE DISCUSSED.

2. RUKMITO SAID THERE IS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON SUBJECT OF JOINT PATROL, ALTHOUGH FROM TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT. GOI IDEA IS THAT EACH GOVERNMENT WOULD INTENSIFY PATROLS ON RESPECTIVE SIDES OF DEMARKATION LINE WITH CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN THEM. THEY ENVISAGE CUSTOMS, POLICE AND NAVIES ON EACH SIDE WORKING IN COORDINATED EFFORT. WHILE HE THOUGH TECHNICAL PROBLEMS COULD BE OVERCOME, HE SAID REAL DIFFICULTY WAS THAT GOS INSISTED ON GOI CONSENT TO USE AIR SPACE OVER SUMATRA BY SINGAPORE AIR FORCE FOR TRAINING PURPOSES AS QUID PRO QUO. WHILE ACCORDING DEFENSE MINISTER GOH SUHARTO HAD AGREED TO THIS IN PRINCIPLE DURING PRIME MINISTER LEE'S VISIT TO JAKARTA LAST YEAR, GOI NOW TAKES POSITION THAT GRANTING AIR SPACE RIGHTS TO GOS WOULD CREATE POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR THEM WITH MALAYSIA WHICH IS NOT WILLING GRANT SINGAPORE SIMILAR RIGHTS. THUS, THERE IS COMPLETE STANDOFF ON THESE TWO ISSUES AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BOTH ARE DEAD FOR TIME BEING.

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3. GOS IS WILLING TO AGREE TO EXTRADITION OF INDONESIA FOR 11 OUT OF 27 TYPES OF "ECONOMIC CRIMES" IDENTIFIED BY GOI. (THIS IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ACCOUNT FROM THAT REPORTED PARA 10, REF A.) RUKMITO SAID LEGAL, LANGUAGE AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES PREVENTED AGREEMENT ON OTHER 16 TYPES OF CRIMES AND ENTIRE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO LOWER LEVEL FOR FURTHER STUDY. (COMMENT: WE GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS ISSUE IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE

TO THE GOI BUT THAT SINGAPORE IS DRAGGING ITS FEET.)

4. NO REAL PROBLEM SEEMS TO EXIST ON CULTURAL AGREEMENT, BUT APPARENTLY INSUFFICIENT STAFF WORK HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO VISIT. THIS MATTER ALSO REFERRED TO LOWER LEVELS FOR FURTHER WORK.

5. THE LONGSTANDING DISPUTE OVER BILATERAL TRADE STATISTICS WAS APPARENTLY RESOLVED TO INDONESIA'S SATISFACTION BY LEE AGREEING TO RELEASE 1973 DATA IMMEDIATELY. THIS WILL BE DONE CONFIDENTIALLY AND HENCE PUBLISHED TRADE DATA WILL CONTINUE OMIT INDONESIA.

6. MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF MEETING WAS AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT LON NOL GOVERNMENT IN UNGA ON PROCEDURAL VOTE WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF DEFERRING KHMER CREDENTIAL QUESTION. ACCORDING TO GOH KIAN CHEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW SINGAPORE WOULD VOTE IF PROCEDURAL VOTE FAILS AND CLEAR-CUT ISSUE ON SEATING GRUNK COMES TO VOTE. (COMMENT: IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES GOS WOULD PROBABLY ABSTAIN ALTHOUGH THEY COULD BE INFLUENCED BY INDONESIAN POSITION.)

7. GOS REPORTEDLY PRESSED GOI FOR PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH CONSORTIUM OF SINGAPORE BANKS IN INDONESIA BUT THIS WAS REFUSED ON GROUNDS GOI DOES NOT INTEND PERMIT ADDITIONAL FOREIGN BANKS TO DO BUSINESS IN INDONESIA. AT TIME OF CONFRONTATION, SINGAPORE BANKS CEASED OPERATING IN INDONESIA AND BANK OF INDONESIA CLOSED ITS SINGAPORE BRANCH. AFTER CONFRONTATION, INFORMAL AGREEMENT REACHED TO ALLOW BANKS TO RETURN WHEREUPON BANK OF INDONESIA SET UP SHOP IN SINGAPORE BUT FOR SOME REASON SINGAPORE BANKS DID NOT FOLLOW SUIT. NOW, GOI SAYS, IN EFFECT, IT CONFIDENTIAL

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IS TOO LATE. RAHIM ISHAK, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO INDONESIA (NOT YET PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED) EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION ON THIS SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR DURING FAREWELL CEREMONIES FOR SUHARTO. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN ONE REAL SOUR NOTE OF VISIT.

8. GOS ALSO MADE REQUEST FOR CIVIL AIR RIGHTS TO BALI, WHICH WAS TURNED DOWN.

9. LOS MATTERS WERE REVIEWED, PARTICULARLY ARCHIPELAGO QUESTION. ONLY ADVANCE ON THAT WAS AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER INFORMALLY IN EFFORT REACH COMPROMISE.

10. NO DATE FOR NEXT MEETING BETWEEN LEE AND SUHARTO

WAS DISCUSSED ALTHOUGH BOTH LEADERS AGREED WOULD BE  
HIGHLY USEFUL MEET INFORMALLY FROM TIME TO TIME.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SN, ID, CB, (SUHARTO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005